



The Rotary Club of Kwinana

District 9423 Western Australia

Chartered: 22 April 1971

Team 2025/26

President
Stephen Castelli

Secretary
Genevieve Carr

Treasurer
Karen Zabiela



Bulletin

No 24 19/01/2026



Rotary Club of Kwinana is 54 years' old 1971/2025

Greetings from the stand-in Bulletin Editor!

With PP Eric Blogg being temporarily out of action as he undergoes hip surgery this week, yours truly is stepping in to do the honours. We wish Eric all the very best for his surgery and post-operative rehabilitation.

Someone else who warrants special thoughts from us is past member Diane Brown. Diane's mother, Patricia Sewell, passed away last week after living with dementia for several years. Pat was a strong supporter of Rotary and its ideals, and was always interested in the progress and activity of our Club.

On a brighter note, it was a great pleasure to have past exchange student Patricia Von Borries and son Facundo with us over the past few weeks. After a whirlwind few weeks of catching up with her former host families and other friends, and seeing the sights of Perth and surrounds, the travelers are now on their way back home to Bolivia.

Whilst there was no formal meeting last week due to Australia Day public holiday, many of us enjoyed great fellowship at the home of Cyril and Lynne Bennett. Huge thanks to this couple for their wonderful hospitality.

Facts & Figures

Attendance this week
Total Members 22
Apologies
Make-up
Attended 9
Guests 1
Visitors
Partners

%

Raffle
Cyril & Sorren

Heads & Tails
Stephen



Meets on Monday
6:00 for 6:30 pm
At Rotary Hall
Brownell Crescent
Medina

Visitors are welcome
Contact
0400 837 603



Rotary International President
2025/26

Francesco Arezzo

Rotary Club of Ragusa, Italy

District Governor 9423
2025/26

Veronica Lawrance

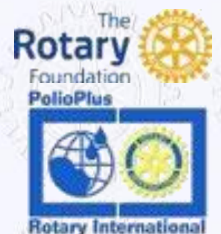
Rotary Club of Mill Point



February 2026 – Peace & Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month

- Mon 2nd Club Meeting
- Mon 9th Club Meeting: GS Allen Graham
- Mon 16th Combined Meeting @ Rockingham
- Mon 23rd Club Meeting

Attendance: Members respond via 'WhatsApp'

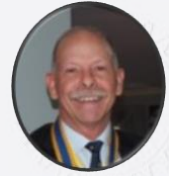




President's Pen



2nd February 2026



Tonight was a lean meeting with 9 members in attendance, as well as our guest 2003 exchange student Patricia from Bolivia.

Yanti and I will be on holidays in Indonesia, enjoying Chinese New Year with her family. I will be back for the meeting on Monday 2nd March.

I have asked Terry and James to assist me with chairing the meetings whilst I am away.

Just a reminder that we have the following vacancies in our club:

Public Relations Director

Programs Manager

Secretary

Club Services Director 2026 – 2027 and President Elect for 2027 – 2028

The club continues to function, because some of the Board have stepped up and are now doing 2 jobs if not 3. **This is not sustainable.**

If anyone is able to help with any of these positions, we would love to hear from you.

I still want to have a Blind Wine Tasting at our home potentially in May, and we will invite the members and partners from RC Harvey to join us.

Also looking at a “long table” sundowner at the Green Barista. I have spoken to Dia and Suzy and they have done a number of these events. This would be on a Monday night in lieu of a meeting.

I have spoken to Karen as she is a very keen advocate for “local” projects, and Karen will take over as the link between Providence Permaculture School in Casuarina and our club. Many thanks Karen.

The club has been invited by the RC Rockingham to join with RC Palm Beach and Baldvis for a presentation evening on Monday Feb 16, with funds raised going to South Coastal Health Community Services. Numbers are required by Wed 11/02. Cost is \$25 for a 2-course meal.

At the last board meeting, it was agreed that we sell the 2nd BBQ trailer, as we have not used it in over 2 years. If any members have any contacts with groups or clubs that may be interested, then please let me know.

The board also approved a request from Kwinana Reach to have 2 of their students attend Providence Permaculture School. This was approved for the requested \$960.

Note: Since the request, the formal invoice has grown a little to \$1,020 as one of the students will be doing a slightly longer term.

Alan advised that he is working with a group to set up a Men's Shed in Kwinana. Once he has details, he will come back to the board with a proposal of how we can help.

If anyone else has any projects that they feel that the club may be interested in, then please get the details and bring it to the board/club.

I will be the guest speaker at the Rotary Club of Pinjarra on Thursday night. They want to hear more about the Indonesian School Renovation project.

President Stephen



PP Genevieve Carr January 19th 2026



Inward Correspondence:

- January 2026 Rotary leader
- Invoice for RDU subscriptions
- RDU Supplies update
- Rotary Regional Council update
- Invitation to showcase club projects at District Conference
- DG Online January 2026
- Notification of Guest Speaker opportunity
- Correspondence from ARH regarding our support for Indigenous Health Scholarship student
- Invoice from Reach Kwinana for student sponsorship to attend Providence School
- Membership Development update
- RotaryWA Round Up #45
- Confirmation of Guest Speaker on 9 February
- Reminder for Club Service Director to attend PETS seminar on 21 – 22 February 2026
- RDU.One
- Notification from Water Corporation

Outward Correspondence:

- Letters of acknowledgement of resignation sent to Bob Thompson and Edd Samut

“Be the change that you wish to see in the world”

- Mahatma Gandhi



Genevieve Carr President 2026/27

February 2nd 2026



Club Calendar for upcoming Monday evenings:

- Monday 2 February: Visit and presentation from past exchange student Patricia Von Borries
- Monday 9 February: Guest Speaker Allen Graham
- Monday 16 February: Combined meeting at Rockingham
- Monday 23 February:
- Monday 2 March: No meeting due to public holiday
- Monday 9 March: Guest Speaker: local health provider
- Monday 16 March: Guest Speaker: Jeremy Wood, Rotary Peace Poles
- Monday 23 March:
- Monday 30 March: Restaurant Night (Matthew Carr's 21st birthday)
- Monday 6 April: No meeting due to Easter Monday public holiday

Social Events:

1. **Progressive Dinner:** Saturday 14 February, commencing 6pm
Due to a number of reasons, have decided to scale back to one venue only – Genevieve and Damian's home. Attending folks will be contacted in the near future with the option of contributing an entree, mains or dessert dish.
2. **President-Elect Training Seminar:**
Genevieve to attend this over the weekend of 21 – 22 February
3. **District Conference at Northam:** To be held Friday 13 March – Sunday 15 March
4. **Weekend at Katanning:** Saturday 25 April – Monday 27 April
Have contacted the Rotary Club of Katanning; planning for a get-together on Sunday 26 April

“Try to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud”

- Maya Angelou



Vice Pres.
Terry Evans



Treasurer
Karen Zabiela



Project Director
PP James Sharkey



Foundation Dir.
PDG John Iriks

Team 2025/26



Membership Dir.
Norm Mulcahy



Events Manager
PDG John Iriks



Fine Session: Sergeant Norm Mulcahy
PP Chris Oughton standing-in for Norm



P Stephen Castelli
stand-in when required.

Genevieve to Soren: What is illegal about this book??? Turns out that Soren said "Lego"!

WHO Executive Board signals renewed global unity to finish polio eradication

Meeting in Geneva this week, [WHO Member States](#) reaffirmed their collective commitment to ending polio, building on the momentum of the recent global pledging moment in Abu Dhabi. Opening the EB, WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus [said](#): “Vaccines are bringing us closer to the eradication of polio, with 41 cases of wild polio reported last year from just 24 districts in Pakistan and Afghanistan, down from 99 cases in 49 districts in 2024.”

Summary of new polioviruses this week:

<https://polioeradication.org/about-polio/polio-this-week/>

- Afghanistan: three WPV1 cases and four WPV1-positive environmental samples
- Pakistan: three WPV1-positive environmental samples
- Benin: two cVDPV2-positive environmental samples
- Chad: two cVDPV2 cases
- DR Congo: one cVDPV2 case



Birthdays and Anniversaries February 2026

Birthday Congratulations

- Cathy Sharkey 2nd
- Diane Bird 7th
- Eric Blogg 12th
- Wendy Cooper 18th
- Tish Evans 24th



Wedding Anniversaries

- Chris & Carol 21st 23 years
- Karen & Peter 25th 37 years



Club Anniversaries:

- Max Bird 1st 27 years
- Tony Miller 18th 3 years
- Norm Mulcahy 26th 20 years

Congratulations

Guest Speaker Patricia Von Borries

Our guest speaker for this week was Patricia Von Borries, our former exchange student from Bolivia who was hosted by our Club during the early 2000s. During that time her host parents were Bob and Wendy Cooper, Eric and Gladys Blogg, Terry and Tish Evans, and Pat and Ina Barallon.

Patricia was the ideal exchange student in every sense. She attended Club meetings regularly, and readily became involved in various activities. She happily socialized with Club members and their families, and showed genuine interest in local affairs and Australian culture. As a student at Kwinana Senior High School she excelled in her studies and made some strong friendships which have continued to this day. Having maintained contact over the years with her former host families, Patricia decided to come to Perth early this year with her young son Facundo so that he could gain insight into his mother's experiences here as an exchange student. Over the past weeks Patricia and Facundo have had the opportunity to reunite with her former host families and other friends, as well as enjoying many of Perth's attractions. At this week's meeting, Patricia shared with us some photos of her family and life back home in Bolivia.



Arriving here early January 2026



Day trip to Rottnest Island



Family photo back home in Bolivia



Parents



What happened this week in history?



Feb 2nd to Feb 8th



2nd

- 1848** The war between the US and Mexico ended with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
1882 Irish novelist and poet James Joyce was born in Dublin, Ireland
1990 In South Africa the 30-year-old ban on the African National Congress was lifted by President de Klerk, who also promised to free Nelson Mandela and remove restrictions on political opposition groups

3rd

- 1865** A 4-hour peace conference occurred between Pres. Abraham Lincoln and the Confederate Vice-President
1870 15th Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified, guaranteeing the right of all citizens to vote
1913 16th Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified, granting congress the authority to collect income taxes
1943 Act of heroism occurred in the icy waters off Greenland after US transport ship *Dorchester* was torpedoed by the Germans; 4 US Army chaplains sacrificed their own lives by giving their life jackets to young soldiers

4th

- 1746** Thaddeus Kosciuszko was born in Poland
1861 Apache Chief Cochise was arrested by the US Army; his subsequent escape led to the Apache Wars
1902 Aviation pioneer Charles Lindbergh was born in Detroit, Michigan
1985 Twenty countries in the United Nations signed a document entitled "Convention Against torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment."

5th

- 1917** The new constitution of Mexico, allowing for sweeping social changes, was adopted.

6th

- 1788** Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify the new US Constitution, by a vote of 187 to 168
1895 Birth of legendary baseball player George Herman "Babe" Ruth
1911 Birth of Ronald Reagan, the 40th US President
1933 20th Amendment to the US Constitution was adopted, setting the date for President Inauguration as Jan 20th
1952 Death of King George VI of England

7th

- 1478** Thomas More was born in London, England
1795 11th amendment to the US Constitution was ratified, limiting the powers of the Federal Judiciary over states
1812 Birth of British novelist Charles Dickens

8th

- 1587** Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, was beheaded at Fotheringhay, England, on charges of treason
1820 Birth of William Tecumseh Sherman, Union Civil War General
1910 The Boy Scouts of America was founded by William Boyce in Washington, D.C.

Congratulations John Iriks



On Australia Day we had the thrill of learning that our very own PDG John Iriks had been awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in recognition of his outstanding commitment to the community over the years. As well as being a dedicated Rotarian since 1979, John has been involved in numerous other community activities including St Vincent's Church Parish, local council, Bendigo Bank, and sporting groups. Ever gracious, John attributed much of his success to the unwavering support of his wife Chris and fellow Rotarians.

The Order of Australia recognises Australians who have demonstrated outstanding service or exceptional achievement.

There are four levels of award, The Companion of the Order of Australia (AC), Officer of the Order of Australia (AO), Member of the Order of Australia (AM), and Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM). The Order of Australia also has a Military Division (awards in this division are recommended to the Governor-General by the Minister for Defence).

Anyone can nominate a member of the community for an award in the Order of Australia. Nominating someone is a chance to recognise a peer for their hard-work, service and dedication. It is an opportunity to celebrate those inspiring people who make our nation what it is.

All nominations are independently researched before they are considered by the Council for the Order of Australia. This research checks the information you provide and gathers more details about the person you are nominating. The Council for the Order of Australia considers the information and makes a recommendation to the Governor-General.

Ultimately, the outcome is based on the impact the nominee has had. Your nomination is a starting point in the process and success is not based on how well you write the nomination.

Eligibility

The Order of Australia celebrates Australians who make an outstanding contribution to the community – at the local, national or international level.

The Council decides who should be recommended based on a person's actions, achievements and the difference they have made. People who are recognised go above and beyond what is reasonably expected (or could be expected) to make life better for others.

To be eligible for the Order of Australia, a nominee must:

- Be alive at the time their nomination is received
- Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident (see note below)
- Have not been recognised through the Order of Australia in the last five years.

Non-citizens and permanent residents may be recognised through honorary awards. Recognition for non-citizens is the responsibility of the [Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet](#).

Australians from all walks of life are recognised through the Order of Australia. They may:

- Be a volunteer whose service is over and above the contributions of other volunteers
- Have made an outstanding contribution within their professional field (whatever that is)
- Have done both – made an impact in their job/s and contributed as a volunteer. Usually, recipients have contributed in many ways.

It doesn't matter what their background is or what type of work they do, if someone makes a positive difference they may be recognised.

- <https://www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awards/order-australia>

Order of Australia Medal



Front View



Rear View



Presentation Ribbon

Nearby Rotary Clubs, Meeting Times

Rockingham	Monday	6pm	Armadale	Tuesday	7pm
Palm beach	Wednesday	6.30pm	Mandurah Districts	Tuesday	6pm
Baldivis	Tuesday	6.30pm	Pinjarra	Thursday	6.45pm
Cockburn	Wednesday	6pm	Byford & Districts	Monday	7pm